years old, if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(b) whether Government are aware that according to these old rules, Indian prisoners get much lesser and worse qual ity of daily diet than foreign prisoners;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prisoners in jail in the country do not get warm blankets and clothes for cold winter months; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI):

(a) to (d) Prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is essentially for the State Governments to amend and update their Jail Manuals depending upon the need. However, available information indicates that the State Governments, by and large, have been revising their Jail Manuals from time to time.

Diet scales for prisoners have been prescribed as per local requirements and food habits, etc. Woollen blankets and clothes are also provided to prisoners during the winter season keeping in view the weather conditions.

Creation of New **States**

*155. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of bills for creation of new States;

(b) the details of steps taken/proposed to sort out controversial/vexed issues relating to creation of new States; and

(c) by when the new States are likely to be created and the financial implications of the proposals, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Bills providing for reorganisation of the existing States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh so as to create the new States of Vananchal, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand/ Uttaranchal were referred by the President to the respective State Legislatures in August '98 for expressing their views thereon as required under article 3 of the Constitution of India. The views of the State Legislatures have since been received and the matter is under further examination. As the creation of new States involves examination of complex administrative and legal issues, it is difficult to fix a definite timeframe in this regard.

Setting up of Tourist Circuits

*156. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tourist circuits set up, so far, in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to develop some more national tourist circuits in the country;

(c) if so, the number of tourist circuits identified for development in Gujarat; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated tor the development of those tourist circuits during the last three years, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE-IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM: (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Identification and development of tourist circuits is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism has identified 19 circuits and 10 destinations for integrated development with the purpose of providing incentives to the Private Sector for setting up tourism infrastructure. These circuits and destinations are — Travel Circuits.

1. Kullu-Manali-Lahuk/Spiti-Leh-Monastic Circuit

2. Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orchha-Khajuraho

3. Bagdogra-Sikkim-Darjeeling-Kalimpong

4. Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Konark

5. Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagar-Tirupati

6. Madras-Mahabalipuram-Kancheepuram-Vellur-Thiruvannamalai Ginjee-Pondicherry (Sourthern Heritage Circuit)

7. Rishikesh-Narendranagar-Gangotri-Badrinath

8. Bhophal-Sanchi-Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Omkareshwar-Mandu (Bhopal and Sanchi)

9. Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bikaner-Barmer

10. Bangalore-Mysore-Hassan

11. Raigad Fort-Janjira Fort-Kuda Caves-Sirivardhan-Harihareshwar-Sindhudurg

12. VaranastSaranath-Gorkhpur Kushinagar-Sunali-Piprahwa (Kapilvastu), Sankis Kausambi-Sravasti-Lucknow (Buddhist Circuit)

13. Patna-Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Ragir-Vaishali (Buddist Circuit)

14. Bhubaneshwar-Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udaygiri-Kendraparha-Chand Bali Bhadrak (Sun Temple)

15. Cochin-Thekkady-Madurai-Rameswaram

16. Harishankar-Narsinghanath-Hirakud-Sambalpur-Bed Vyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit)

17. Swaranchuda Circuit-Chandipur-Chandaneshwar-Panchelingeswar-Simlipal Sanctuary-Khiching

18. Araku Valley-Nandapur-Gupteshwar-Rayagada (Panchabati Circuit)

19. Guwahati-Kaziranga-Shillong-Tawang

Destinations

1. Ajanta-EUora (Aurangabad)

2. Andaman Islands

3. Bekal Beach

4. Diu (Damn & Diu)

5. Kangra (Pong Dam)

6. Lakshadweep Islands

7. Manali (Solang Nalah)

8. Muttukadu-Mamallapuram

9. Puri

10. Sindhudurg.

(c) Government of Gujarat has identified following areas for development are Kutch, Saurashtra and Sardar Sarovar region.

(d) The amount of Central Assistance provided by the Ministry of Tourism since 1992-93 to State Governments for creation of Tourism infrastructure is given in Annexure.

[See *Appendix* 185, *Annexure No.* 30].

Financial Assistance for Countering Extremist Activites in Bihar

*157. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has submitted a project report with a request for financial assistance for countering extremist activities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to sanction and release the amount demanded?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Bihar has sent a proposal seeking special financial assistance of Rs. 70.18 crores to combat extremist activitives. The assistance sought is for vehicles (Rs. 22.91 crores), modern weapon & bullet-proof jackets' helmets (Rs. 30.15 crores), construction of police lines (Rs. 13.44 crores) and training (Rs. 3.68 crores).

(c) Some other States affected by extremist activities have also sought financial assistance from the Central Government. The matter is being considered in consultation with the Ministry of Finance for devising a suitable package for the affected States, including Bihar. It may, however, be mentioned that a sum of Rs. 10.16 crores has been released to the Government of Bihar since May '97 under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces.